

FBIS 89 (SEE 72)

PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA

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(TEXT) WE ARE GOING TO GIVE A LAST MINUTE REPORT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR AGO BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. WE ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT DEMETRIO LAKAS. ALSO PRESENT WERE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT GEN OMAR TORRIJOS, COL RODRIGO GARCIA AND ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF, ALL OF THE CABINET MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS OF AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. IN A LONG DEBATE WHICH LASTED FROM 0900 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1130, THESE HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OUTLINED THEIR PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE; ALL OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY BACKED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

THE CONSENSUS THAT DEVELOPED AT THIS MEETING IS THAT THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA IS AN ACT OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RECOGNITION OF A FACT THAT EXISTS ON THE CONTINENT AND IN LINE WITH A TREND THAT HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS IN RECENT YEARS OF REESTABLISHING AND NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CUBA. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR BOTH SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT, THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND CUBA, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, HAVE DECIDED TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THIS DECISION IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF NATIONS PROVIDED FOR BY THE UN CHARTER WHICH GOVERNS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT WITH THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WITHIN THE NORMS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THEIR SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT, THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP THAT HAVE ALWAYS LINKED OUR PEOPLES WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

THE COMMUNIQUE ADDS THAT PANAMA FEELS THAT THE ISOLATION WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO MUST BE ENDED, A SITUATION WHICH CONTRADICTS THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY. THE MEASURE THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED CONSTITUTES A CLEAR REAFFIRMATION ON THE PART OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ONE OF ITS POSTULATES AS REGARDS INTERNATIONAL POLICY, WHICH CONSISTS IN THE RIGHT OF EVERY PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA HAS APPOINTED A DELEGATION THAT WILL TRAVEL TOMORROW AT NOON TO HAVANA, HEADED BY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY MINISTER NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA, TO FORMALIZE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

THE COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED AT LA SIESTA HOTEL TODAY, WAS SIGNED BY GEN OMAR TORRIJOS; PRESIDENT DEMETRIO LANAS; VICE PRESIDENT ARTURO SUARE; CARLOS ESPINO, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES; COL RODRIGO GARCIA; LT COL FLORENCIA FLORES; LT COL RUBEN PAREDES; LT COL MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA; LT COL ARMANDO CONTRERAS; LT COL ARMANDO BELLIDO AS WELL AS BY ALL OF THE CABINET MINISTERS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION.

THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION MADE UP OF NEARLY 30 PERSONS HEADED BY MINISTER BARLETTA WILL LEAVE TOMORROW AT 1200 TO ATTEND THE PROTOCOL EVENTS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN HAVANA CUBA. IN ADDITION TO MINISTER BARLETTA, THE DELEGATION IS MADE UP OF ROBERTO PUELLO, OF THE COLON FREE ZONE; ADOLFO AHUMADA, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION; ALBERTO PONS, GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO; DR HOLDER, PANAMA CITY MAYOR SERGIO RODRIGUEZ; DR EDUARDO MORGAN; EMANUEL GONZALEZ REVILLA AND THE DIRECTORS OF ALL OF THIS CAPITAL'S NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION NEWSCASTS. AN INVITATION WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF PANAMANIAN RADIO MEDIA AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE PART OF THIS DELEGATION.

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